

Myth #7

All special interests critical of U.S. farm policy just want good public policy.

FACT #7

Many special interests critical of U.S. farm policy cross the ideological divide but share a common denominator: agendas that the vast majority of Americans reject.

While reasonable people can and do disagree about the best course for U.S. farm policy, there are a number of special interests that have entered this otherwise constructive debate with other agendas, using questionable tactics.

Some of these special interests, although discredited by sound science, believe that today's farming practices are bad for human health and the environment and that killing U.S. farm policy is a way to stop these farming practices.

These special interests take the extreme view that increased food production should be avoided because it will drive up world population, leading to environmental degradation, and have argued for the return of the U.S. Great Plains to a "buffalo commons."

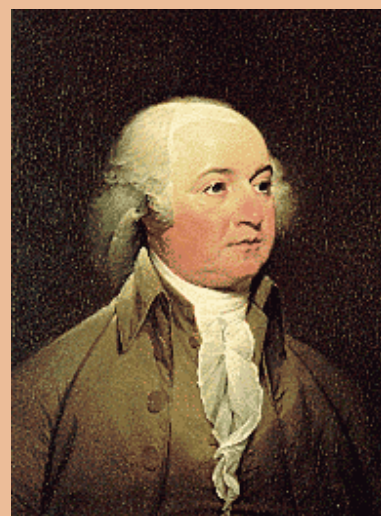
The approach of these radical special interests is self-defeating in a world economy where loss of food production in the United States only means increased food production in places like the Third World where there are few food safety and environmental safeguards.

In addition to saving millions of acres of wildlands and global forest all over the Third World from being cleared for more low-yield crop production, Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug also noted that high efficiency agriculture in places like the United States has led to healthier people living longer lives than ever before because of safe and abundant food.

Other special interests want to help the Third World so badly that they offer the shirt off someone else's back - rural America's - to achieve their generosity, never mind that the vast majority of Americans do not want to cede agricultural production to the Third World and do not want to depend on this region of the world for food.

Still other special interests oppose helping U.S. farmers in the name of free trade. Some are doctrinaire and simply ignore the anti-competitive advantage enjoyed by foreign farmers. Others are more pragmatic, seeing help to U.S. farmers as a nice chip to bargain away in negotiations in exchange for more access to world markets for their favored industry.

These special interests, tired of having their goals rejected at the front door of public discourse, are now coming around the back door, using envy and "divide and conquer" tactics – such as half-truths about "big" vs. "small" farms and payment limitations – to pit non-farmer against farmer and farmer against farmer in order to kill U.S. farm policy. But, the vast majority of Americans will continue to support U.S. farm policy because, as an early Massachusetts farmer once said, "Facts are stubborn things."



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-President John Adams